

# SPORT

## Lucky Wembley ticket winners

WINNER of our Wembley competition from last week was Mr C Veni from Beinston Road, Wealdstone. He wins a pair of tickets for the England v Brazil match in the Umbro Cup at Wembley on Saturday June 11.

The three runners up were Paul Harling of Long Elm, Harrow, Steven Power of Watford Road, Harrow, and John Sanders of Little Orchards Close, Pinner. They each win a pair of tickets for this Saturday's Umbro Cup match between

England and Japan at Wembley. For ticket details and further information on the Umbro Cup, ring the Umbro Cup hotline on 0178-274-2995. Lines are open from 9am-5.30pm Monday to Friday.

# Bartlett takes on challenge of Wealdstone

## Vase winner is named as Stones new manager



© New Wealdstone manager, Gordon Bartlett.

GORDON Bartlett, the man who led Yeading FC to their FA Vase triumph in 1990, is the new manager of Wealdstone.

Having taken Yeading from the lower reaches of the Diadora League into the Premier Division in his six years at the Warren, Bartlett clearly has the right credentials for undertaking a similar task with Stones.

He was offered the job by Wealdstone chairman Paul Rumens last week and after much soul searching, with the fact that he is about to be made redundant by the school at which he teaches full time having some bearing, he decided to accept. "Given my circumstances, the package was very attractive," he said. "It's one hell of a challenge. I'm under immediate pressure to get promotion and I've accepted the challenge."

But he warned that instant promotion was no foregone conclusion. "Just because I've done it before it doesn't mean it will automatically happen again. I don't have a magic wand."

"All I can do is try to attract the right kind of players to what is obviously a big club and then I'll let our football do the talking."

"There will be a lot of hard work re-

By John Comfort

quired both on and off the park. The players must realise that they will have to battle and be hungry for success."

Bartlett's capture is a considerable coup for Rumens. The popular manager has been the target of numerous premier division clubs in recent years but it has taken the onerous task of reviving Wealdstone's fortunes to lure him away.

Said Rumens: "At the end of the day he's the best man for the job. There is no one in football we wanted more than him."

"It is a question of horses for courses. Gordon has done this before, the only difference being obviously he had got reservations because we don't have our own home and we're starting in Division 3 of the Diadora. He feels Wealdstone is still a big club and I think he's been impressed with the way we have conducted ourselves and put across the club to him."

"I think it's a hell of an achievement to get a manager of his calibre to come down to our level."

Wealdstone will not be 'breaking the bank' to get Bartlett. Said Mr Rumens:

"At our egm last January when the club voted to go into Diadora, the major criteria was for financial reasons. We've not got Gordon on a big budget to get us out of Division 3 but he's on a good budget. I said there would be savings made this year and we will not be letting the members and shareholders down."

Bartlett's playing career saw him with Portsmouth, Denver in America, and Brentford, then dropping into non league with Slough and Hayes before a knee injury forced him to turn to coaching and management.

His first management post was at Southall and in his year there he took them to the FA Vase Final where they lost to Halesowen. He then moved to Hounslow where in three years he won the Hellenic League Cup and promotion into the Beazer Southern Division. At Yeading he has achieved two promotions, four County Cup Finals, two as a winner and the 1990 FA Vase final which Yeading won in a replay against Bridlington.

Bartlett is hoping that his assistant at Yeading, Leo Morris, will follow him to Wealdstone. "We've worked together for nine years. I'd like that to continue, but that's obviously his decision," he said.

## An open letter from the Yeading FC chairman

HONOUR, principals, morals. Do these words exist in the English language anymore? I don't think so.

Gordon Bartlett has resigned his position as manager of Yeading Football Club to take up a highly paid post as manager of Wealdstone FC.

A reasonable course of events you might think! I have nothing but respect for Gordon and over the period we have worked together we have become good friends. What I am questioning is the course of events that led up to this situation and pointing out to all

Yeading FC chairman, Phil Spurden, was far from happy at losing his club manager. In this open letter to the Observer he recounts events leading to the departure of Gordon Bartlett and his dissatisfaction at Wealdstone's part in it.

that when you open the door and welcome in a homeless bunch of lads - beware.

Two years ago when Wealdstone were forced to leave Watford FC they were homeless and they approached a large number of clubs in their borough and were not made welcome. Then they approached clubs outside their borough - again the same result.

Then the chairman at the time approached me and after

agreement with my committee we welcomed them with open arms.

Yes we received financial benefit with them being at Yeading, but that was not our only reason for helping - they were in trouble and we were able to help. Isn't that what sport is all about?

On Tuesday May 23 I received a call from Paul Rumens, the Wealdstone chairman, who has over the past two years become quite a good friend of mine - or so I thought, in fact we had discussed many times the force we would have been had we pooled our joint resources.

He had actually pushed the wrong button on his phone and dialled me by mistake, but it was nice to hear from him and have a chat, in fact we discussed me visiting him in

Northampton and staying the weekend. No mention of his intentions of making Gordon an offer he could not refuse.

On Thursday May 25 I received a call from a very perplexed Gordon Bartlett saying he had been made an offer and needs to discuss it urgently because it is causing him a great deal of concern. He told me it was a lower club but would not say who until we met face to face.

Later that morning my secretary put a call through to me from Paul Rumens. Before I took the call it all came into place - the lower club must be Wealdstone. no it can't be, Paul only talked to me two days ago, surely he would have had the courtesy to mention it then?

"Hello Phil it's Paul here, look I won't beat about

the bush. I have approached Gordon to be manager of Wealdstone." Anyone who knows me can imagine my reaction.

Paul Rumens was very aware of my thoughts and plans for Gordon especially with our work with the youngsters of the borough and the ambitions both Gordon and I had for Yeading's steady progress. He was also aware of Gordon's personal situation with regard to his redundancy and obviously took full advantage. At this level of football it is not all about money, it is about friendship and trust. How do Wealdstone feel knowing that Gordon Bartlett is joining them solely for money? It is not why he joined Yeading. All I can say is we kept our side of the bargain.

Honour, principals, morals, forget it. Your out of sport. Phil Spurden

## Old Gayts aim for Division Two return

OLD Gaytonians AC go into their Guardian Insurance British League Division Three second round match at Bracknell on Saturday with team manager Phil Parry confident that it will be the next step along the road to the club's return to Division Two.

After a third place at the first round in Stoke, Parry will be expecting his team to build on that at Bracknell and he prophesies that Gayts will then win matches three and four to reclaim that Division Two spot for 1996.

He will be without his three multi-eventers, but gives a GIBAL debut to Chris Lennon over 100 metres to partner Stoke winner Rohan Samuel, with Martin Bennett concentrating on the 200 metres and relay.

Matthew Smith also debuts over 1500m, joining Gordon Tyler, while Simon Patton joins Mike Nolan in the steeplechase. Mark Cursons makes a welcome re-appearance at 5000m after some time out of the sport, whilst Ben Costley, from West London Institute, takes on the 400m hurdles.

In the field the club's top two triple jumpers, Ray Smith and Ben Hodson, return which should boost the tally in an event in which the club scored only minimally last time out.

Stuart Back is a further debutant in the high jump while Howard Lamb returns in the shot and discus to relieve the team manager, who can then concentrate on his team, the javelin and also focus his mind on his preparations.

## Andrew is England star

WASPS star fly half, Rob Andrew, was the hero of England's World Cup opener against Argentina in South Africa on Saturday.

A poor performance by England looked likely to lead to an upset at the hands of their underdog rivals, but Andrew kept his side in front, scoring all their points with six penalties and two drop goals as they held on for a 24-18 win.

In the absence of the injured Will Carling, Andrew was set to captain the side in their second group game yesterday (Wednesday) against Italy.

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## Slade takes first Britannic award



KENTON batsman Steve Slade is the winner of our first Britannic Assurance Player of the Month awards for the new cricket season.

He took the May award for some fine batting performances which included a 129 against Harpenden, 83 against NPL, 71 against Alexandra Park and a 59 against Rotary Bay.

This is Steve's second Britannic monthly award, his last was two seasons ago.

But Kenton players are no strangers to these honours. Teammates Tim Holton and Mark Giffin are both former winners and Holton was the Britannic Player of the Year in 1992.

Giffin was also among the front runners for this month's award, as was Bes-

Britannic Assurance



Player of the Month

borough veteran, Graham Sainsbury.

Steve Slade's May award includes a trophy, British Assurance leisurewear items and tickets for a Britannic Assurance Championship match of his choice.

## Glen not for Wealdstone job

IN a speculative article in last week's Observer over who would be the next Wealdstone manager, the name of Wembley boss Glen Charles was mentioned. Wembley chairman Brian Gunn has pointed out that "Glen is under contract and is going nowhere." We are happy to put the record straight.

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